

From Tom Margro, General Manager

Reflect on Your Blessings Over the Holidays

As we close the year, let me wish all BART employees happiness and good fortune. I hope this Holiday Season allows you to take time to reflect on your blessings with family and friends. I believe 1998 was a very good year for BART, and I look forward to success next year as we continue progress on various programs, including our system renovations and building our new line to the San Francisco International Airport.

This year we celebrated 25 years of service to the public with a commemoration that saluted the 172 employees who were working here when we rolled out the first train on September 11, 1972. There were some sentimental memories shared by veterans, who proudly noted BART's role in transportation history. In other achievements, BART for the third time "brought home the Gold" with a First Place win by the Maintainers Team at the APTA International Rodeo. Congratulations, again, to Ted Christiansen, David Mohn and James Riddle, Jr. Of course, we continued our tradition of sharing good times with BART family members at the employee picnic held at Great America and the fourth annual Golf Tournament.

We showed our community spirit through BART's "Take Our Daughters" and "Take Our Sons" to work events, our Summer Youth Program, and our Cinco de Mayo Celebration. We also saluted BART employees who celebrated 15 to 30 years with the District, and those recognized for their achievements in safety and professional service, including a joint CSAA/CHP award to BART Police Officer Les Morgan and a Transportation Safety Institute award to Denis McNichol.

Again, I wish all of you a festive and heartwarming holiday season and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your commitment to operating one of the finest public rail transportation agencies in the USA. I salute your success and look forward to continuing our progress. b

T. E. Margro



BART Employees Show Holiday Spirit

Each Holiday Season, BART employees show their spirit for helping those less fortunate than themselves. Many employees and departments have organized "Adopt A Family" and other efforts to help out needy families, and the BART Police Food Drive is looking to provide holiday meals to many who would otherwise go without. BART for the second time is also working with Bay Area food banks to help the needy.

THE 19TH ANNUAL BART POLICE HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE is on through December 24, and donations of food and cash are welcome. Food barrels are set up at the Concourse and Lobby levels at LMA, and cash donations may be sent to the "BART Police Managers Association" or "BPMA" to Sgt. Gary Cagaanan, BART Police, LMA-C. Monetary donations will be used to purchase turkey, ham and other food items.

Last year's project raised over \$2,500 and took in canned food donations to help prepare food baskets for 55 families plus four shelters that care for battered women and their children. "Our goal for 1998 is to surpass what we did in 1997," said Gary. BART Police officers and Community Service Assistants volunteer to deliver food baskets containing ham and turkey, fruit and vegetables and everything else needed for a family meal. Families and shelters served by the BART Police Food Drive are located throughout the counties the District serves. Delivery is planned for December 22 and 23, but donations will be accepted through December 24 to cover any last minute need.

Gary has been involved in the BART Police Holiday Food Drive for more than 12 years. "We receive referrals from churches and community organizations to find needy families," said Gary. "If any BART employee is aware of a needy family, please let us know, and we will do all we can to accommodate them." Referrals may be made to Gary at ext. 7632.

"It's hard work, but a labor of love," says Gary. "It's well worth the effort to bring a day of happiness to a family that may have nothing for Christmas if not for our efforts. It's a wonderful way for the BART to give back to the community, and the need is so great. I wish we could do more."

see **Holiday Spirit** on page 2



Holiday Spirit *continued from front page*

In memory of Tish Hosmer, who had organized holiday programs to help needy families since 1994 and passed away earlier this year, employees in Transit System Development are joining with those in Real Estate to help families residing at **McKinley House** in Berkeley. This is a transitional shelter for homeless families operated by Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency (BOSS), which provides a full range of services to families seeking independence, including workshops on parenting and nutrition, employment referrals, health care and other community resources.

McKinley House was selected after Shirley Ng, Laura King and Eve Meadows toured the home, and met with Rosie Kaplan, a community resource coordinator for BOSS. Besides McKinley House, BOSS operates emergency, transitional and long-term programs at 27 sites in Berkeley, Oakland and Hayward, all seeking to prevent homelessness and achieve housing security.

"Our goal is to raise enough funds to purchase either a TV and VCR for the home, or a computer, which will be available to everyone in the community room" said Laura. "The home is pretty basic, and there aren't many amenities. We want to provide something that everyone can use, and can benefit all the families, including those who are there now and the ones who will come later on." The combined TSD-Real Estate donation will be made in Tish Hosmer's name. Donations are welcome to "McKinley House" and can be sent to Laura King in Real Estate or Eve Meadows in TSD. "Let's make this a holiday to remember in honor of Tish," said Eve. "You can just imagine her walking by and asking each of us to 'dig deep' to help out."



Employees in Human Resources are joining together to collect clothing for **Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the East Bay**, and collection barrels are located in the Human Resources Lobby at IBB-5, 1330 Broadway, and at the Street and Concourse levels at Lake Merritt Administration, 800 Madison Street. Donations of new and previously worn clothing, especially warm clothes and coats, are welcome through December 31. Staff from Big Brothers/Big Sisters will be collecting the donations during the month of December. "So, clean out your closet and help someone less fortunate than yourself," said Caroline Rogers of Human Resources.

Also, Human Resources is adopting a family through Battered Women's Alternatives in Concord, helping a single mom and four children who are staying at BWA's shelter. "We plan to give the family clothing, food and money for Christmas dinner," said Caroline. Human Resources also gave a gift certificate and food to BWA for Thanksgiving, and will also adopt another needy family in the San Francisco area through an agency in San Francisco, according to Howard Lewis.



Employees at Hayward Shops are getting into the Holiday spirit by adopting four families in their "**Sharing the Blessings**" program, including one that was adopted last year "whose situation has not changed," said J.R. Thomas. "We have always done three families through Alameda County Social Services," he said. "But last year, there was a family in Hayward where only one child in the three spoke English and the mother did not. Israel Ayala served as the interpreter, and stayed in touch with them over the past year, visiting on a regular basis. He told us that they're really not much better off than last year. So, we decided that we're going to keep this family and include them, probably, for quite some time to come."

Hayward Shops employees participate by picking an ornament from a Christmas tree and buying the gift noted on the ornament, said J.R. Families will receive clothing, food and toys for children. J.R., Israel and others will play Santa on Christmas Eve by personally delivering the holiday gifts to each family. "We hope Israel will once again don his Santa Claus suit, and bring along his two kids as Elves," J.R. said. This is the seventh year for Hayward's "Sharing the Blessings" program.



Employees at Richmond Shops are taking up a collection of food, clothing and children's toys to donate to the **Greater Bay Area Rescue Mission in Richmond**, according to Tamar Allen. "We normally adopt two families, but this year we decided to do something to affect the larger community," she said. The Rescue Mission operates programs that help the homeless and those suffering from substance abuse to get back on their feet, and operates a shelter program through local churches and synagogues. Roy Bisi and Pat Terry will deliver the donation around Christmas Day.



For the second year, BART participated in "**Share the Harvest**" with Bay Area food banks to make sure needy families had holiday meals. Food barrels were placed in all BART stations in November to collect food for food banks in San Francisco, San Mateo, Alameda and Contra Costa counties. In turn, the food banks provide food to hundreds of organizations that provide hot meals and groceries to tens of thousands of people throughout the Bay Area. The collection was conducted in partnership with the Oakland A's and Grocery Outlet.

As of early December, food was still being collected from the barrels, and Lynn Fischer of Customer Service reported that 3 tons of food had been counted so far. "That's three times as much as we did in 1997," she said. **b3**



Crafts Galore at Holiday Faire

BART employees took advantage of the annual Holiday Faire held December 4 to shop for art and craft items for holiday gifts. BART

employees showcased their art and culinary talents with homemade jewelry, baked goods, clothing and other handicrafts. **b**





Castlemont Kids Visit BART to Learn About Transit Maintenance



Since 1996, East Bay high school students have been learning what it takes to get into a career in transit maintenance by attending Vocational Program Day at BART's maintenance divisions. On November 4, juniors and seniors from Castlemont High School's International Trade and Transportation Academy visited Oakland Shops to participate in the program designed to motivate young people to pursue vocational and educational goals.

Students divided into six groups to watch demonstrations presented by BART employees, who volunteered their time to show their job duties in Facilities Maintenance, Automatic Fare Collection, Power and Mechanical, Non-Revenue Vehicle Shop, Systems Maintenance and Track and Structures. Among the demonstrations, some equipment was shown as interfacing with Central Operations. Students also saw an electrician working on a 1,000-volt direct current third rail circuit breaker and witnessed its operation.

Students also toured the Operations Control Center, the central computer system and the Lake Merritt BART Station. "With its focus on stimulating and acquiring job skills, the program encourages students to think about vocational options," said Mae Meidav, who organizes and manages the Vocational Program Day program.

"The students took it seriously," she stated. "There was lots of discussion about getting a high school education, and the technical training they would need from a community college. They saw that this is something they can handle."

The program's benefit to BART, noted Mae, is that "it engenders pride in workmanship as employees demonstrate the work and talk about what it takes in skill, training and education to do their job."

The program is perfectly suited for students in an Academy program, since they are studying and preparing for jobs they can take on either directly from high school, or with a two-year commitment in a trade program at a community college, noted William Huffman, co-director of Castlemont's International Trade and Transportation Academy. "Most of the students were enthusiastic about the visit to BART," he said. They could easily relate the demonstrations and the BART jobs to what they are considering for their own careers, he said. "The program achieved its objective to expose high school students to job opportunities that are within their reach." **b**

NEW HIRES & PROMOTIONS

RICHARD J. WIECZOREK has been promoted to Department Manager, Procurement and Contracts Management. He has been with BART since 1992, and was previously Manager, Contract Administration and a Senior Engineering Contract Administrator. He replaces Michael O'Connor, who took a similar position with the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority.

In his new position, Dick manages acquisition and control of all goods and services that support District operations, including Contract Administration (major contracts and procurement), Purchasing (buying materials), Inventory Management (quantity analysis) and Logistics (warehousing). His staff in five divisions totals 90.

Previous to BART, Dick spent 23 years in the U.S. Navy, beginning on a ship at Naval Weapons Station, Concord, then working in positions of increasing responsibility in procurement in the U.S. and overseas. He was stationed at Mare Island, then in Guam as director of

purchasing, then attended the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, earning a masters degree in system inventory management. He previously earned a bachelors degree in nuclear physics at Harper College, part of the State University of New York. Dick then was stationed at the Alameda Air Station, which included overseas assignments setting up 500-bed mobile hospital facilities, including three in Saudi Arabia serving our nation's soldiers during the Gulf War. His last position was Executive Officer as second in command at the Fleet Hospital Support Office in Alameda.

Dick lives in Vallejo with his wife, Patty. They have two daughters, Erin, 15, who attends Hogan High School and Mary, 19, who attends Solano Community College. Dick likes to camp, backpack and fish in the Sierras. "I'm happy as a clam to be here," he says, "and I look forward to providing service to all the members of the District." **b**

